

FROM THE EDITOR

This year's issue of the *Journal of Child and Youth Care Work* reaches directly into many issues and interests of our burgeoning field.

The emergence from child- to family-centered practice has been a major occurrence in human service domains in recent years. Our feature article by two widely known scholars and practitioners, Frank Ainsworth, from the Edith Cowan University in Australia, and Rick Small, Executive Director of Walker School, examines family-centered practice in the context of the child and youth care perspective.

Crucial contemporary issues that are little addressed in our professional literature are sexual and gender issues. Here unique viewpoints closely grounded in the child and youth care perspective are provided by Holly Kreider, writing on the needs of girls in group care; and Peter Tompkins-Rosenblatt, on considerations related to sexual activity of sexual minority youth in group care.

Delinquent youth are of course a major concern to child care practitioners who should find both Jaques Dionne's article on implementation of a "Just Community Approach" and its impact on moral behavior and Erich Otto Graf's findings that youth who have experienced residential programs that are 'ego strengthening' are more socially resilient on discharge than those who have experienced 'superego' oriented programs, reinforcing the concept of the power of humanistically oriented milieu programs.

Training and education continues to be a major mission of those committed to advancing child and youth care work as a profession. We are fortunate to be able to offer three articles on this topic. Harold Jacobs describes an exciting new curriculum based on the European social pedagogue model; Nancy Reyome and colleagues discuss implications for training of the results of an inventory of residential child care workers' attitudes toward abusive behavior; and Dale Curry and Sr. Madeleine Rybicki, methodology for assessing competency in child care worker trainers.

Those who never met Jack McElroy, formerly Clinical Director at the Children's Home in Tampa, FL were deprived of a wonderful opportunity to meet a person who reflected all the very best values and understandings of the field when Jack's untimely death occurred in January 1994. The first winner of the Trieschman Prize Competition for his paper on "The Primary Caretaker Model" Jack's achievements were recognized by many and are formally acknowledged in a group of three papers by Jon Parsons, Executive Director of the Children's Home, Mark Krueger, and Henry Maier. I remember meeting Jack when he was awarded the prize in 1987, informally shooting basketball with him and his son on the parking lot court, reading his prize winning paper with great interest when it was published, and being so taken by it that I paid a visit to the Children's Home so I could

personally see his ideas put into action. I have felt Jack's loss deeply. As a special treat to our readers, we are reprinting his prize winning essay with permission from the Trieschman Center.

We are pleased to continue to model how messages about children and youth and our work can be expressed in many ways through poetry and a short essay. You will enjoy the creative work of James Vitko and Anthony Frazier. A marvelous, special work, *The Gus Chronicles* by Charles Appelstein, is reviewed by Andrew Schneider-Muñoz and Gregory Hildebrand.

Because we are always looking for and encouraging writers and want them to recognize that writing for publication is neither esoteric nor impossible, we present a conjoint 'write up' of the Writers' Workshop given at the International Conference on Family Centered Youth Work in Milwaukee in June 1994.

With this issue too, we continue to acknowledge the support, sponsorship, and collaborative contribution of the National Organization of Child Care Workers Associations and the Child and Youth Care Learning Center of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

—Karen VanderVen